announced, amongst other visa liberalization measures, that all Pakistani nationals above the age of 65 would be granted "exemption from police reporting visas" (EPR Visas).

Additional visa liberalization measures were announced on December 28, 2004 which, *inter alia,* included visas on arrival at Wagah border to Senior Pakistani citizens above the age of 65 years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Government of Pakistan has not advocated any reason for not relaxing their norms.

Security Council seat without Veto

351. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian has not been given UN Security Council seat with Veto powers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor despite the facts that India is the largest democracy of the world;

(c) the names of the countries supporting India's claim for UN Security Council with Veto Power and those against it; and

(d) the strategy being adopted by Government to get its due position in UN Security Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Currently, the right of Veto is available only to the five permanent memebrs of the UN Security Council namely, China, France, the Russian Federation, USA and the UK. India is not a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

(b) The issue of the reform and restructuring of the UN Security Council has been under discussion at the United Nations for several years. There

are several complex issues involved in the question of restructuring the UN Security Council as well as the question concerning new permanent members. In view of the complexities and the diverse perceptions on the specifics of such reforms among member States, a decision on this issue has not been reached as yet.

(c) There is a steady accretion of support for India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council. Several countries-permanent members as well as others-have expressed support for India's candidature either in the UN or in the context of bilateral exchanges. Such support is expressed in different forums and forms and it is, therefore, difficult to give a definitive number on countries which have specifically supported India.

(d) The Government has been pursuing India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council, and takes up India's case in all its high-level bilateral interactions.

Joint Study Group between India and Malaysia

352. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India and Malaysia have set up a Joint Study Group to study the bilateral economic affairs and signed a comprehensive economic cooperation agreement; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) During the visit of H.E. Mr. Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia to India from 19-23 December 2004, it was agreed to explore the possibility of concluding a Comprehensive Economic Cooperative Agreement between the two countries. In pursuance of the decision, a joint Study Group has been constituted to discuss the feasibility of the proposed Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement.

(b) The Terms of Reference for the Joint Study Group were finalised during the visit of the Commerce and Industry Minister to Malaysia on 17 January 2005. The first meeting of the Joint Study Group, to be